

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 06057 140231Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 AGR-01 AID-05 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12

NEA-10 ICA-11 /101 W

-----003097 150152Z /63

R 132012Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9501

AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FOURTH SESSION

REF: STATE 69982, STATE 85966, ROME 6291

1. SUMMARY. GOM STILL HAS NO AGREED POSITION ON TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED AT WFC MEETING AND NO HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL HAS TAKEN CHARGE. END SUMMARY.

2. AGATT MET WITH ING. LUIS EQUIHUA, ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND COORDINATOR OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FOURTH SESSION. EQUIHUA NOTED THAT THE GOM HAD ONLY JUST RECEIVED FROM ROME THE AGENDA FOR THE WFC AND SAID THAT AN INTERAGENCY COMMISSION WOULD BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN TEN DAYS TO BEGIN FORMULATING A GOM POSITION ON A NUMBER OF THE AGENDA ITEMS.

3. HE INDICATED AN AWARENESS OF WHAT HE TERMED NERVOUSNESS ON THE PART OF OTHERS AS TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE GOM ABOUT THE WFC. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE FACT THAT

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 06057 140231Z

UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS JUAN JOSE DE OLLOQUI HAD BEEN ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WFC BUT HAD NOT BEEN ACTIVE. EQUIHUA SAID THAT IT WAS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT ANY HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL TO GO TO ROME FOR EVERY PREPARATORY MEETING AND TO ATTEND TO ALL THE DETAILS OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL MEETINGS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ATTEMPTING TO PERFORM HIS NORMAL DUTIES.

4. THE TIME BEING, THE GOM PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME WILL CONTINUE TO ACT AS CONDUITS FOR INFORMATION AND TO PRESENT THE GOM VIEWS IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS. HE VIEWS IT LIKELY THAT ONA GOM POSITION HAS BEEN HAMMERED OUT, A HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE FROM MEXICO CITY WILL TAKE UP THE REINS. FOR NOW THE FUNCTION IS IN EQUIHUA'S HANDS, BUT HE DOES NOT VIEW HIS FUTURE ROLE AS OTHER THAN A COORDINATOR.

5. EQUIHUA DISCOURSED ON MEXICO'S CHANGING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DCS AND LDCS. HE APPLAUDED THE GOALS OF THE WFC AND THE GOOD WILL OF THE DONOR COUNTRIES WHILE NOTING THAT IT WAS ONLY REASONABLE FOR THE DONORS TO EXPECT THE RECIPIENTS TO INCREASINGLY BEGIN TO UNDERTAKE THE CHORE OF FEEDING THEMSELVES. HE SAYS THAT THE GOM IN PRIVATE BELIEVES THAT THE DONORS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND CERTAIN ACTIONS BY RECIPIENTS, EQUATING THE RELATIONSHIP TO THAT OF A BANK WHICH PLACES CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON A PROSPECTIVE BORROWER BEFORE GRANTING A LOAN. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT THIS VIEW CAN ONLY BE EXPRESSED IN PRIVATE, BECAUSE TO EXPRESS IT PUBLICLY WOULD RESULT IN THE OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CLASSING MEXICO WITH THE "BIG BOYS". LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOODS, MEETINGS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO06057
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-0956
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780459/aaaabxxl.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2060a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 69982, 78 STATE 85966, 78 ROME 6291
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2974157
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) FOURTH SESSION
TAGS: OCON, EAGR, MX, WFC
To: STATE ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2060a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014